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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An appliance located ~~states, which are changed in dependence on interaction with a person,~~ accumulating method of accumulating data of a positional relation of individual positions where a plurality of appliances mutually connected through a network are located, comprising:

(a) receiving different classes of state change information from a plurality of different classes of appliances through said network, the state change information being indicative of differing classes of operating state changes of the different classes of appliances; ~~which include a computing arrangement, through said network;~~

(b) calculating an occurrence time difference from occurrence times when the differing classes of operating state changes have been detected as having occurred with respect to differing appliances of the differing classes of appliances, ~~by differing ones of the appliances,~~ in accordance with occurrence time information indicative of occurrence times of the operating state changes included in the state change information; and

(c) acquiring distance between appliances which incur the operating state changes, based on the calculated occurrence time difference.

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Claim 2 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said acquiring calculates the positional relation in accordance with the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes occurred in two appliances and relationship weight information indicative of a distance between the two appliances.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein said relationship weight information is a value calculated by a predetermined expression in accordance with two elements including: number of times of occurring the operating state changes; and the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes occurred in the two appliances.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~constituted of cooperative with a~~ plurality of appliances mutually connected through a network and for accumulating data of a positional relation of individual positions where the appliances are located, comprising:

a reception means for receiving different classes of state change information from a plurality of different classes of appliances through said network, the state change information indicating operating state changes of the different classes of appliances, ~~which include a computing arrangement, through said network, where the state changes change in dependence on interaction with a person;~~

calculation means calculating an occurrence time difference from occurrence times when the different classes of operating state changes have been detected as

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having occurred with respect to differing appliances of the differing classes of appliances, by differing ones of the appliances, in accordance with occurrence time information indicative of occurrence times of the operating state changes included in the state change information; and

acquiring means acquiring a distance between appliances which incur the operating state changes, based on the calculated occurrence time difference.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said acquiring means acquires the positional relation in accordance with the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes occurred in two appliances and relationship weight information indicative of a distance between the two appliances.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 5, comprising storing means for storing the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes occurred in the two appliances and the relationship weight information indicative of the distance between the two appliances.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the relationship weight information is a value calculated by a predetermined expression in accordance with two elements including: number of times of occurring the operating state changes; and the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes occurred in the two appliances.

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Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A household-appliance located states  
accumulating method of accumulating data of a positional relation of individual positions  
where a plurality of household appliances mutually connected throughout a household  
are located, comprising:

(a) receiving different classes of state change information from a plurality of  
different classes of appliances through said network, the state change information  
being indicative of differing classes of operating state changes of the household  
appliances, which include a computing arrangement, through a network, where the  
operating state changes occur ~~occurs~~ responsive to interaction of a person in the  
household in proximity of ones of the household appliances;

(b) calculating occurrence time differences from occurrence times when the  
differing classes of operating state changes have been detected as having occurred  
with respect to differing appliances of the differing classes of appliances, by differing  
~~ones of the household appliances~~, in accordance with occurrence time information  
indicative of occurrence times of the operating state changes included in the state  
change information; and

(c) acquiring distance between household appliances which incur the operating  
state changes in the household, based on the calculated occurrence time differences.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein said  
acquiring calculates the positional relation in accordance with the occurrence time

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difference of the operating state changes occurred in two household appliances and relationship weight information indicative of a distance between the two household appliances.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said relationship weight information is a value calculated by a predetermined expression in accordance with two elements including: number of times of occurring the operating state changes; and the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes occurred in the two household appliances.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A system constituted of a plurality of household appliances mutually connected through a network throughout a household, and for accumulating data of a positional relation of individual positions where the household appliances are located in the household, comprising:

a reception means for receiving different classes of state change information from a plurality of different classes of appliances through said network, the state change information indicating differing classes of operating state changes of the different classes of household appliances, ~~which include a computing arrangement, through said network, where the~~ operating state changes occur ~~occurs~~ responsive to interaction of a person in the household in proximity of the household appliance;

calculation means calculating occurrence time differences from occurrence times when the differing classes of operating state changes have been detected as having

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occurred with respect to differing appliances of the differing classes of appliances, by differing ones of the household appliances, in accordance with occurrence time information indicative of occurrence times of the operating state changes included in the state change information; and

acquiring means acquiring a distance between household appliances which incur the operating state changes in the household, based on the calculated occurrence time differences.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 11, wherein said acquiring means acquires the positional relation in accordance with the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes occurred in two household appliances and relationship weight information indicative of a distance between the two household appliances.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 12, comprising storing means for storing the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes occurred in the two household appliances and the relationship weight information indicative of the distance between the two household appliances.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 13, wherein the relationship weight information is a value calculated by a predetermined expression in accordance with two elements including: number of times of occurring the operating

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state changes; and the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes  
occurred in the two household appliances.